station on the Pathankot-Jammu section of the Northern railway but a connecting overhead bridge has not so far been provided, thereby causing difficulties to the passengers; and

(b) by when the overhead bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) the question perhaps refers to Sujanpur station on Pathankot-Jammu section as sajanpur station does not exist on this section. There are two medium level platforms for UP & DN trains at Sujanpur 'E' class station, having meagre passenger traffic. As per minimum essential criteria, an overhead bridge is not essentially required. However, the platforms are connected at their ends to enable passengers to go from one platform to another, for the present.

Rail linkage between Chennai Egmore and Central Railway stations

2843. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail linkage between the two gateways of Tamil Nadu-Egmore Railway Station and Chennai Central Railway Station was rightly conceived and foundation ceremony conducted during 2003:

(b) if so, what is holding up for proceeding further;

(c) whether it would be so insurmountable to get over such hurdles, if any; and

(d) by when it could be taken up for execution and the time-frame for completion of the work, in the wake of long felt need of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The estimate for this project was sanctioned in 2003. The technical feasibility and commercial viability study of this project was entrusted to M/s RITES. Out of the various alternatives suggested, the

proposal which envisages overhead crossing of the railway track over the Poonamalli High Road between Chennai Central and Moore Market complex is technically feasible. The same was referred to Government of Tamil Nadu for clearance. A reply from the Government of Tamil Nadu is awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

Development works in North-Eastern Railway

2844. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development works going on in North-Eastern Railway;

(b) the details of places where work has been slow *vis-a-vis* targets;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the pace; and

(d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to improve the website of NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there are 4 new line, 6 gauge conversion, 13 doubling ongoing projects in North Eastern Railway.

(b) The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. Delay in land acquisition, adverse law and order condition and failure of contractors are affecting the progress of works.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken for generating additional resources through Public Private Partnership, cost sharing by State Government, funding through Ministry of Defence and National Projects etc. Funds have also been allocated through increased internal resource generation.

(d) At present, the internet website of North Eastern Railway is working satisfactorily through Railway's internet i.e. Railnet, the website address is www.ner.railnet.gov.in. The North Eastern Railway's website is also planned to be hosted on Government owned Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) server.